

BATMAN - "The Wail Of The Siren" Written By: Stanley Ralph Ross

TEASER

FADE IN:

(In the previous segment, we learned that three small ships were dashed against the rocks overlooking the West River. All of them were destroyed. Batman and Robin were called by Commissioner Gordon and are racing to the scene.)

INT. BATMOBILE (PROCESS) - DAY

Batman and Robin briefly reprise the above and hasten to the area where all the ships crashed.

EXT. CLIFF AREA - DAY

(INTERCUT THIS WITH SHOTS OF BOATS ON THE ROCKS - STOCK)

Batman and Robin spy two men crawling along the beach (need not see beach) and hurry to render them aid. When asked what happened, one of the men answers that a strange feeling inundated him; a compelling urge to crash the ship into the rocks. Next thing he knew he was floating in the water. The other man is unable to say what happened as he is deaf. But, through the use of sign language, he tells Batman that he felt no such urge and that he saw the men all around him holding their ears and falling to the deck. Batman is puzzled by this confounding sequence of events. As he ponders this, we

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH AND WINDY HILL - DAY

We see the rear of a very shapely form, dressed in a beguiling, skin-tight outfit that accentuates the positive. At the moment,

get "heavy" in here!

Turned into
Batleader

the tantalizing temptress has her hands on her hips and is laughing at the top of her entrancing lungs. The laugh is eerie and spine-chilling; a portent of things to come.

FADE OUT

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. GOTHAM CITY HOSPITAL (STOCK) - DAY

SUPER TITLE

BATSTOCK OF BATMOBILE ON ROAD - DAY

SUPER CREDITS

EXT. BUILDING (HOSPITAL BACK DOOR)

The Batmobile arrives and our heroes leap out.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Batman and Robin meet Commissioner Gordon and Chief O'Hara to briefly review the thorny problems they face. While in the midst of their conversation, Barbara Gordon strolls in. She works at the hospital as a Volunteer Nurse's Aid in her spare time. Through dialogue we find that none of the men aboard the ill-fated ships were killed. But all of them told precisely the same astonishing tale: they were overcome by a strange urge to dash themselves against the rocks. This was followed by a siege of unconsciousness and ultimate immersion in the water. Barbara says she spoke with

the singular woman who was on one of the ships. Her reaction was similar to the deaf man's; e.g. she heard nothing and couldn't understand why the others were affected and by what they were affected. Batman and Robin tread down the hall to interview a few more of their victims. One interesting clue is that all three yachts were owned by hi-fi manufacturers. What that means they've yet to uncover.

INT. THE SIREN'S GROTTO - DAY

A dank cave featuring torches on the walls and a harpsichord in the center of the room. Lorelei Circe, better known as The Siren, is playing the twangy instrument and singing a series of notes that can only be compared to chalk screeching on a blackboard or the sound that emanates when two cats are nailed together. Her yeggs, Andante and Allegro, wear large, specially designed helmets that we suppose blocks the sound out. As she plays, they sift through equipment purloined from the three drowned vessels. She finishes playing (whew!) and signals her men to remove their helmets. This they do. She says that without the use of those special helmets, they would be powerless to resist her. She invented the helmets herself, specifically for the use of her henchmen. Now she briefly divulges a smidgeon of her plan and somewhat more of her background; after years and years of rigorous training the Siren developed her voice to such a honed degree that she is able to vocally reproduce sounds that will drive men mad by affecting their brains. When she audibilizes these sounds, any man within hearing distance has no recourse but to obey whatever her command. The Siren has a two-

pronged plot in mind. The first part of that plot is to render Batman dead. With the Caped Crusader out of the way, she can proceed with part two. (Not explained here.) She and her men leave to contact Batman and set a trap.

BATSPIN TO:

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The doughty Commissioner and his aide-de-camp, Chief O'Hara, are about to make their egress after a long and arduous day. Barbara is also there and asks her Dad if she can use the phone as she has to call the library. It's 8:45 p.m. and she wants to catch them before they close at nine. Gordon answers affirmatively, then he and O'Hara leave, surpressing yawns. Barbara starts to dial and reacts when she hears a noise outside. This causes her to hide. The Siren and her two men clamber in through the window, after having climbed the wall. With nary a by-your-leave, the Siren goes directly to the BatPhone and presses it. Barbara, in a dark corner, observes these goings-on. Her men wear the helmets again.

INTERCUT BATMAN IN BATCAVE

Batman and Robin are busy in a vain effort to deduce what the heck is going on. The BatPhone Beeps and Batman answers it with his customary, "Yes, Commissioner?" He hears the Siren's voice on the other end of the line. "You will do exactly as I tell you," she says. At that, Batman's body sags perceptibly. No longer the alert, muscle-toned man of bronze; Batman seems weak and docile. His eyes

grow dull (duller?) and he lapses into an ambulatory trance as the unheard voice of the Siren drills into the core of his medulla oblongata. "Put your puny partner on the phone," says the Siren in an INTERCUT. Batman dutifully hands the telephone to Robin who accepts it with a raised eyebrow. Her mouth now against his ear, the Siren tells Robin to obey her wishes. He too is now under her spell. Batman takes the phone and listens as the Siren outlines her plans for him. They are to drive immediately to the Gotham City Bridge, park on it, and jump off with no hesitation. Batman hears and obeys. He and Robin get into the car and drive out.

BATSTOCK - NIGHT

INT. BATMOBILE (PROCESS) - NIGHT

Batman and Robin. still in their respective trances, matter-of-factly discuss who will jump off the bridge first. The Narrator sneaks in with:

"DO OUR EYES AND EARS DECEIVE US?"

"CAN IT REALLY BE HAPPENING?"

"IS THIS THE END OF BATMAN AND ROBIN?"

"SNAP ON YOUR SEAT BELTS. THE MOST EXCRUTIATING MOMENTS ARE YET TO TRANSPIRE!!!"

FADE OUT:

*Not enough going in
1st act - let's get
some of her other
evil (evoked) plan
to working for us -*

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

BATSTOCK OF BATMOBILE ON ROAD - NIGHT

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Siren and her men leave, all rather delighted with what's just occurred. Barbara comes out of hiding and realizes that she must work fast if she's to save the Heroes of Gotham City. She leaves.

INT. BATMOBILE (PROCESS) - NIGHT

Blithely, Batman and Robin continue on their appointment with the murky depths of the Gotham City River. Batman observes all the traffic signals. Wouldn't want to get a traffic ticket that we wouldn't be around to pay, would we?

INT. SIREN'S CAR (PROCESS) - NIGHT

The seductive sorceress tells her men the remainder of her plan: she is constructing the world's largest amplifier and loudspeaker in order to broadcast the Shout Heard Round The World. When the male populace hears her voice they will be instantly under her domination. She feels that all women (women do not even hear her voice, much less respond) will follow her in her desire to overturn the male-dominated earth and turn it into a femocracy. The Siren now has almost all the ingredients for her super-loudspeaker. From the first boat she stole a tweeter. From the second one she nabbed a woofer. And from the third she kiped a superhetrodyne amplifier. The weather conditions for such a feat are only satisfactory once every seventeen and a half years. And then but for fifteen seconds.

she could have
gotten them in
Hi-Fi store!

doesn't seem
and motive
to sink
ships

she isn't really
evil! Why
not start with
Gotham City instead
of the world -
And have her
want to loot
it or something?

That moment will happen tomorrow at precisely 5:43 in the afternoon.
She can hardly wait.

INT. BARBARA GORDON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Barbara arrives, goes through her Bat-Girl shtick and emerges on the street on her Bat-Cycle.

*Maybe something else
connected with plot can happen
here! This is our major new
set + we want to really use
it!*
CH

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT (NEED SEE ONLY A SMALL SECTION OF RAIL AND GIRDER)
The Batmobile pulls up on the Bridge and Batman and Robin get out.

BATSTOCK OF BATGIRL ON BATCYCLE

She roars along the street.

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

The Dynamic Duo have still not resolved who will jump first. Each is too polite to go before the other. They finally flip a coin and Robin wins. He elects to go first but wants Batman to toss him in. Partners to the end. Batman lifts Robin high above his head (but not after a teary farewell scene) and is about to banish the Boy Wonder to be kissed to death by the waves when (da-dadada-dee-da!) Batgirl arrives. She sizes up the situation and, with not a moment's faltering, she gives Batman a Karate Chop across the back of the cowed crimefighter's head. Batman falls and Robin goes over the side. He manages to grab onto the rail with his hands and BatGirl helps him back on the bridge. Batman is now recovering from the results of the blow. BatGirl slips him a dose of his own medicine.

(A universal antidote pill) which clears his mind. She begins to explain what has happened to them. Before she gets too deeply involved, we

CUT TO:

INT. SIREN'S GROTTTO - NIGHT

She and her men are hard at work constructing the evil machine. Only one more piece remains to make it work. And she knows exactly where she can find it. The jubilant Jezebel and her cohorts exit.

BATSPIN TO:

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

Batman and Robin are in the midst of telling Gordon and O'Hara how they were saved by BatGirl and how she departed before they could really thank her. Gordon blesses the day BatGirl came to Gotham City. The BatPhone rings. (The BatPhone rings?????) Batman and Gordon exchange looks. (Author's note. I take that back. One of Stafford's looks would look pretty silly on Adam's face. Burt, maybe. Adam, never.) Batman answers the call.

INTERCUT ALFRED IN THE WAYNE MANOR STUDY

The suave servitor has his arm in a sling and a bandage festooning his forehead. He explains to his employer that two men and a woman broke into the house and made off with Bruce Wayne's prize-winning hi-fi rig. And that's all they stole! Batman lets this sink into his BatMind. All the parts are fitting together now. Batman and Robin leave for the BatCave to review the situation.

BATSPIN TO:

*it's the most
suave & expensive
equipment in
Gotham City*

INT. BATCAVE

Batman adds up the clues and comes to the correct conclusion that the Siren is constructing some sort of enormous transmitting device. But why? It appears to be the loudspeaker to end all loudspeakers. Batman suggests that they'd best get right back to town. And for speed's sake, they will take the BatCopter. Robin advises against this as the weather report said that the famous Winnetka Winds will be upon them this afternoon. That's the wind that blows up every seventeen and a half years to the day and sweeps its way around the world. It only lasts for fifteen seconds but nothing can fly in it. All planes are grounded for that time. Upon hearing this, Batman snaps his gloved fingers. That's it! The Siren means to let her voice go across this earth. What havoc that will wreak! But where will she do it from? Robin offers a thought: the winds are strongest at the 1450 feet-above-sea-level level. Batman opines that she must be doing it from the top of the newest building in Gotham City; the Amalgamated Broadcasting Company Building, exactly 1450 feet above ground!

BATSPIN TO:

EXT. AMALGAMATED BUILDING ROOFTOP - DAY

The Siren has already set up the speaker. Andante and Allegro, plus two more henchmen, are getting it into the final position. They all wear the special helmets. The Siren checks her wristwatch and sees that the time is drawing nigh. She approaches the microphone to shout her command to the world when Batman and Robin appear at the

elevator shaft. The Siren goes into her weird voice bit but Batman and Robin are unaffected! She is shocked when they do not respond. Batman explains that, through a Yoga trick he learned from an aging Tibetan lama, he is able to shut off the sonic nerve to certain decibels. He taught the trick to Robin on the way over from the BatCave (Robin, by his own admission, is a fast study). Now both of them are able to resist her. The Siren sics her men on the Duo and a SUPERED TITLE fight begins. All the while, the Siren keeps checking her watch and waiting for the wind. As the fight finishes, the wind begins. The Siren moves toward the loud-speaker but the wind is so powerful that it lifts her right up in the air and flies her out of scene. Batman and Robin and the henchmen hold on for dear life as they watch the frail figure of the Siren fly off into the sunset. The wind continues for fifteen seconds. After it diminishes, Batman moralizes and sums up the folly of the Siren's ways. Robin wonders if they'll ever see her again. Batman answers, "Perhaps. In seventeen and a half years, when the Winnetka Winds come back to Gotham City."

where's
 Batgirl?

FADE OUT

TAG

TO COME.